

Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process control system for operating a technical system, comprising:

software components licensed to a user on a fee basis which components implement technical control functions and provide the user with operating, observation and regulation options for the technical system;

a processor unit that has access to project planning data and current operating data of the technical system and bases ~~determines~~ a payment figure ~~from on~~ operations running in the process control system, project planning data and operating data, the operations including ~~regarding the~~ creation of a process control function, the payment figure to be charged to a the user based on creation of the process control function.

2. (currently amended) The process control system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

~~the Internet;~~

a process control computer including an Internet connection; and

a client computer connected to the process control computer via the Internet connection;

wherein at least a part of the operations run on the process control computer.

3. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 2, further comprising:

at least one field device for automation of at least one system component, wherein at least a part of the operations run on the field device.

4. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 2, wherein the process control computer comprises a Web server and the client computer comprises an Internet browser so that the client computer influences the operations running in the process control computer via the Internet, wherein the operations initiate further operations in a component of the process control system.

5. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 4, wherein the component comprises a field device for monitoring and control of a further component of a technical system that is connected by radio communication to the process control computer.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the payment figure is a service fee to be paid by the user of the process control system to an Application Service Provider.

8.-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method for determining a payment figure in a process control system, comprising:

making available, via a license from a service provider to a user on a fee basis, software components which implement technical control functions and provide the user with operating, observation and regulation options for the technical system;

recording the creation of a process control function by a processing unit; and

determining a payment figure to be charged to a the user based on the creation of the process control function.

15. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the creation of the process control function is undertaken by the user.

16. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 15, further comprising providing a plurality of pre-specified functions, wherein the user selects at least one of the plurality of pre-specified functions which is used in the creation of the process control function.

17. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 14, wherein the payment figure is further based on a removal of the created process control function.

18. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 17, wherein the payment figure is further based on an execution of an automation function.

19. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 14, wherein the operations further regarding an execution of an automation function.

20. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the creation of the process control function is undertaken by the user.

21. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 20, further comprising a plurality of pre-specified functions, wherein the user selects at least one of the plurality of pre-specified functions in order to create the process control function.

22. (previously presented) The process control system according to Claim 21, wherein the user downloads at least one of the plurality of pre-specified functions in order to create the process control function.

23. (currently amended) The process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the operations ~~further regarding a~~ include removal of the created process control function.

24. (currently amended) The process control system according to Claim 23, wherein the operations ~~further regarding an~~ include execution of an automation function.

25. (currently amended) The process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the operations ~~further regarding an~~ include execution of an automation function.